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APPLE STORAGE PROSPECTS 1949-50

by

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Although the estimated apple-pear crop this year is greater than any since 1944, there appears to be adequate storage space in all sections of the United States with the exception of two or three States. This year's crop, estimated to be 153.7 million bushels, ^{1/} compares closely with the 154.6 million bushels of apples and pears produced in 1944. However, since the majority of apple houses are now practically empty and since cooler occupancy in public cold storage warehouses this year is running close to 50 percent--the lowest it has been since 1942--the location of storage space for the 1949 crop should present no serious problem. The New England States are the only States which may be considered possible trouble points at the storage peak.

If the usual percentage of the total production is in storage at the peak, approximately 36.9 million bushels of apples and pears will be in storage December 1, 1949. ^{2/} This would be 13 million bushels above stocks on hand for the corresponding date last year, which was a relatively low production year. On December 1, 1948, 18.5 million bushels were stored in apple houses and 5 million bushels in general public cold storage coolers. Space in apple houses this year, under ideal conditions, could accommodate about 45 million bushels, but the surplus apple house space is not always in areas where it is needed. (See table 1.)

There appears to be ample apple house space in all States in the South Atlantic region for that portion of the crop normally stored there. In other sections it will be necessary for many areas to utilize available space in public warehouse coolers. In the large production Pacific States, California is the only State in which apple houses, if used to capacity, will be unable to meet the December 1 expected storage demand. There should be sufficient space in general public cold storage houses, however, to accommodate any storers seeking space in these States during the in-storage season.

In the Middle Atlantic section, New York and New Jersey cannot meet apple-pear storage needs with space in apple houses alone. New York apple houses have a potential storage capacity of 5.5 million bushels. With an estimated storage peak of 6.4 million bushels, approximately 900,000 bushels would have to be stored in public coolers even if apple houses were completely utilized. On December 1, 1948, one million bushels were stored in general public cold storage. Since the percentage of public cooler occupancy this year is below that of 1948, there should be no problem in handling New York's storage requirements. Cold storage prospects for New Jersey's apple and pear crop point to a deficiency of apple house space of $\frac{1}{2}$ million bushels even if the apple houses were used to capacity. In December 1948, 200,000 bushels were in general public coolers which at that time had 370,000 cubic feet of unoccupied space. The percentage of cooler occupancy in New Jersey in July of this year, however, was down to 48 percent in contrast with a 78-percent occupancy at the same time last year. Because, it appears, more space will be available this year in general public coolers in the Middle Atlantic region than in 1948, public refrigerated warehouses should be in a position to care for the peak storage needs.

^{1/} This estimate represents the apple-pear production in commercial areas in the apple-pear storing States only. Estimates are from the July 1 Crop Production Report, Crop Reporting Board, and are based on the assumption that changes in weather conditions or diseases developing between July 1 and the production period will not greatly affect the volume of production.

^{2/} Since storage peaks for different States are reached from 1 to 3 months apart, the composite peak for various States will exceed the above figures. It is estimated that the composite peak will be about 37.3 million bushels. (See table 1.)

Table 1. — Summary of the apple and pear storage situation for 1949

Sections	1949 : expected : crop :	1949 : expected : peak : storage :	Net capacity : of apple : houses 1/ :	Excess or de- : ficiency of : apple house : space 2/ :	Quantity stored : in public cold : storage : Dec. 1, 1948 :	Quantity to be : stored in public : cold storages in : addition to that : stored in 1948 3/ :
	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>
NEW ENGLAND						
Maine, N. H.....	2,057	123	165	42	3	—
Vermont.....	944	283	258	25	—	25
Massachusetts.....	3,129	1,658	965	-693	108	585
R. I., Conn.....	1,570	864	856	- 8	70	—
MID ATLANTIC						
New York.....	18,279	6,398	5,547	-851	1,079	—
New Jersey.....	2,860	1,058	517	-541	202	339
Pennsylvania.....	8,580	1,630	1,783	153	239	—
SOUTH ATLANTIC						
Del., Md., D. C....	2,288	160	243	83	12	—
Virginia.....	8,821	2,293	6,455	4,162	192	—
West Virginia.....	3,610	650	1,570	920	16	—
North Carolina....	633	25	31	6	8	—
E. N. CENTRAL						
Ohio.....	4,678	655	399	-256	218	38
Indiana.....	1,757	351	230	-121	47	74
Illinois.....	4,219	1,308	1,074	-234	340	—
Michigan.....	10,865	978	1,090	112	318	—
Wisconsin.....	571	114	—	-114	91	23
W. N. CENTRAL						
Minn., Iowa.....	435	218	—	-218	106	112
Missouri.....	1,532	659	345	-314	168	146
Nebr., Kans.....	893	205	53	-152	83	69
SOUTH CENTRAL						
Ky., Tenn.....	897	233	133	-100	78	22
Ark., Okla., Tex..	1,475	251	18	-233	53	180
MOUNTAIN						
Mont., Colo., Utah	2,526	51	—	- 51	38	13
Idaho, N. Mex.....	2,386	24	3	- 21	2	19
PACIFIC						
Washington.....	37,561	12,771	20,250	7,479	209	—
Oregon.....	8,358	2,090	2,330	240	430	—
California.....	22,763	2,276	984	-1,292	1,120	172
U. S. total.. ^{5/}	153,687	43,326	45,299	7,973	5,230	—

1/ October 1, 1947, Space Survey, adjusted for any expansions reported to the USDA since that date.

2/ Figures in this column are based on the assumption that apple houses are used to store apples and pears only, and all space is where needed.

3/ This is on the assumption that apple houses are used to capacity.

4/ Peak storage loads for the various States are reached at different times, from one to three months apart. The total peak load shown is a composite of the State peak loads and not the total United States peak for any given month. (See also note 1, page 1.)

5/ Total for apple- and pear-storing States only.

In the Central and Mountain sections, Michigan--the fourth largest production State--is likely to have an excess of storage space in its apple houses equivalent to approximately 100,000 bushels provided the portion of the crop stored there is the same as in previous years. Although there will be a deficiency of apple house space in the other States of these sections, which are relatively small production States, available space in public general coolers should meet any storage requirements.

Massachusetts and Vermont are the only States in which the storing of their respective crops may be a little difficult. Massachusetts apple production is expected to be about 3 million bushels. The expected peak storage is 1.7 million bushels. If all apple houses are filled to capacity, some 700,000 bushels of the probable storage crop will remain to be stored elsewhere. Last year 100,000 bushels were stored in public cold storage warehouses, in the State which at the time had 1 1/3 million cubic feet of unoccupied space. On August 1, 1949, public coolers in Massachusetts were 44 percent filled as compared with 53 percent a year ago August 1. It may be assumed, therefore, that public cold storages in December 1949 will be able to care for a volume of apples greater than that of December 1, 1948. Therefore, potential storage requirements for apples in Massachusetts probably will be met either in the apple houses or public general cold storages of Massachusetts, but in case there is some lack of space in the State, the small amount of additional space that might be needed can be obtained in public general warehouses between the area of production and the market. In Vermont, even if all space in apple houses is utilized, approximately 25,000 bushels will have to be stored elsewhere. Since there is little public cooler space in the State, most of the excess 25,000 bushels will have to be stored in some other State. Because of the low percentage of occupancy in the majority of public warehouse coolers, growers in Vermont as in Massachusetts should have little difficulty in finding storage space en route to the market centers.

Table 2.--Production of apples and pear and storage peaks by States (1946-49)

	1946		1947		1948		1949 ^{1/}	
State	Apple-pear : production :	Storage : peak :	Apple-pear : production :	Storage : peak :	Apple-pear : production :	Storage : peak :	Apple-pear : production :	Storage : peak :
	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>	<u>1,000 bu.</u>
Maine, N.H....	1,238	44	1,768	101	1,561	78	2,057	123
Vermont.....	425	139	799	237	774	142	944	283
Massachusetts.	2,044	944	2,937	1,547	2,232	1,141	3,129	1,658
R.I., Conn....	1,288	697	1,508	835	1,001	469	1,570	864
New York.....	15,809	5,221	16,005	5,682	12,134	3,769	18,279	6,398
New Jersey....	2,993	879	1,935	713	1,364	337	2,860	1,058
Pennsylvania..	8,913	1,659	6,874	1,433	4,775	646	8,580	1,630
Del., Md., D.C..	2,582	200	1,272	70	1,310	229	2,288	160
Virginia.....	13,328	4,165	5,352	2,007	8,492	2,204	8,821	2,293
West Virginia.	5,179	944	2,866	442	2,840	502	3,610	650
North Carolina	1,547	55	1,066	43	1,185	9	633	25
Ohio.....	2,485	513	3,267	546	2,114	286	4,678	655
Indiana.....	1,316	279	1,643	461	1,160	113	1,757	351
Illinois.....	3,843	1,153	4,589	1,433	2,731	666	4,219	1,308
Michigan.....	8,256	706	7,050	970	5,130	621	10,865	978
Wisconsin.....	996	142	799	158	642	91	571	114
Minn., Iowa...	270	149	380	184	184	106	435	218
Missouri.....	1,378	597	1,846	934	1,035	308	1,532	659
Nebr., Kansas.	699	135	942	218	613	97	893	205
Ky., Tenn.....	891	259	989	239	727	97	897	233
Ark., Okla., Tex	1,173	182	1,571	287	1,181	56	1,475	251
Mont. Colo. Utah	1,716	78	2,748	91	2,354	38	2,526	51
Idaho, N. Mex..	2,300	52	2,765	22	2,261	2	2,386	24
Washington....	41,600	14,040	41,785	15,986	31,315	10,215	37,561	12,771
Oregon.....	9,090	2,317	8,538	3,291	7,493	1,736	8,358	2,090
California.....	20,566	1,992	25,458	2,621	16,538	1,962	22,763	2,276
U.S. total ^{2/}	<u>3/151,925</u>	<u>4/37,541</u>	<u>3/146,802</u>	<u>4/40,551</u>	<u>3/113,146</u>	<u>4/25,920</u>	<u>3/153,687</u>	<u>4/37,326</u>

^{1/} Estimated.

^{2/} Total for apple and pear-storing States only.

^{3/} Apples and pears grown in the above-named States only.

^{4/} Total of the State peaks which occur in various months--not the total peak which occurs December 1--estimated to be about 36,900,000 bushels for 1949.

Table 3.--Quantities of apples and pears stored in coolers of refrigerated apple houses and in general cold-storage warehouses, by States, December 1, 1946, 1947, and 1948

State	1946		1947		1948	
	Apples and pears stored in refrigerated : general cold apple houses : storages		Apples and pears stored in refrigerated : general cold apple houses : storages		Apples and pears stored in refrigerated : general cold apple houses : storages	
	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.	1,000 bu.
Maine, N. H.....	43	1	99	2	58	3
Vermont.....	86	-	179	-	94	-
Massachusetts.....	647	126	1,003	255	763	108
R. I., Conn.....	485	88	601	134	319	70
New York.....	3,120	1,653	3,396	1,907	2,095	1,079
New Jersey.....	347	520	251	408	133	202
Pennsylvania.....	834	752	735	698	366	239
Del., Md., D. C....	96	88	24	44	40	12
Virginia.....	3,539	260	1,859	148	1,790	192
West Virginia.....	885	38	397	18	462	16
North Carolina....	7	36	5	38	-	8
Ohio.....	148	344	145	401	68	218
Indiana.....	145	117	159	302	56	47
Illinois.....	487	665	611	822	326	340
Michigan.....	353	353	461	509	303	318
Wisconsin.....	-	142	-	158	-	91
Minn., Iowa.....	-	104	-	184	-	106
Missouri.....	202	395	252	682	140	168
Nebr., Kans.....	23	107	22	196	14	83
Ky., Tenn.....	50	167	55	184	14	78
Ark., Okla., Tex..	15	172	-	200	3	53
Mont., Colo., Utah	-	77	-	91	-	38
Idaho. N. Mex.....	32	21	-	22	-	2
Washington.....	13,795	245	15,648	338	10,006	209
Oregon.....	1,739	505	2,298	780	661	430
California.....	1,164	828	1,204	1,034	842	1,120
U. S. total... ^{1/} ...	28,242	7,804	29,404	9,555	18,553	5,230

^{1/} A few apples and pears are stored in other States. These are not included in the United States total above.

